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The six hundred and forty-eighth meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on the 23rd January, 1967.

*Chairman:* Dr. J. F. Monk

Members present: 15; Guests 4.

Recording calls of some Malayan birds were played and commented upon by Mr. D. V. Manning.

**A new name for a race of bunting from Africa**

In *Durban Mus. Novit.*, vol. viii, 10, 1967, p. 113, I proposed *Emberiza flaviventris vulpecula* Clancey from the Langata Forest, Ngong, Nairobi, Kenya. Unfortunately, this name is now found to be pre-occupied by *Emberiza affinis vulpecula* Grote, 1921: Bosum, Cameroon (*vide Anz. Orn. Ges. Bayern*, No. 5, 1921, p. 39). I propose

*Emberiza flaviventris carychroa*, nom. nov., for *E. f. vulpecula* Clancey, 1967, not *E. a. vulpecula* Grote, 1921.

P. A. CLANCEY

**The southern forms of *Serinus canicollis* (Swainson)**

by P. A. CLANCEY

*Received 14th October, 1967*

At the present time two southern African races of the Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis* (Swainson) are recognised by many workers, these being *S. c. canicollis* (Swainson), 1838: Cape of Good Hope, and *S. c. thompsonae* Roberts, 1924: Woodbush, Tzaneen, northern Transvaal. The latter race is however frequently treated as a synonym of the former. It was separated in the first instance by Roberts, *Ann. Transv. Mus.*, vol. x, 3, 1924, p. 186, as having the "Upper parts golden yellow" as against a duller yellow in *S. c. canicollis*, but this character has eluded most later workers. In a short note in *Durban Mus. Novit.*, vol. vi, 19, 1963, pp. 261, 262, I defined the characters by which a taxon *thompsonae* could be recognised, these being

briefly a darker and more olivaceous citrine to the throat and breast in males, and a darker and browner, less greenish, upper surface to females in freshly moulted dress. *S. c. canicollis* is mainly restricted to the western and southern Cape, while *S. c. thompsonae* is distributed over the south-eastern highland system of South Africa. With the separation of a third southern African race in *S. c. griseitergum* Clancey, 1967: Stapleford Forest Reserve, Umtali, Rhodesia, it seems opportune to present a formal subspecific revision of the southern complex of populations of this African canary.

To augment the series in the Durban Museum, further material for this research was borrowed from the East London Museum (through Mr. C. D. Quickelberge), the Transvaal Museum (through Mr. O. P. M. Prozesky) and the National Museum of Rhodesia (through Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin). To these gentlemen I tender my thanks. The combined material assembled comprised some 200 specimens.

Variation within the zoogeographical South African populations of *S. canicollis* is relatively slight. In the population continuum extending from the western and south-western Cape through the southern mountains of the same province to Natal, Zululand, Swaziland and the Transvaal, eastern birds differ from western ones in the development of a darker throat and breast colour in males and a browner upper surface in freshly moulted females. In eastern Rhodesian birds, which are geographically isolated from those of South Africa, males are palpably greener, less citrine coloured, below, and both sexes show a greater development of grey over the entire mantle and the scapulars than in either *S. c. canicollis* or *S. c. thompsonae*.

Resulting from a critical appraisal of the adequate panel of recently taken material available, it is possible to define the characters and ranges of the three southern races of *S. canicollis* as follows:

(a) *Serinus canicollis canicollis* (Swainson)

*Crithagra canicollis* Swainson, *Anim. in Menag.*, 1838, p. 317: Africa, restricted to Cape of Good Hope, Cape Province.

♂. Forehead and crown Aniline Yellow (Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912, pl. iv); nape, adjacent sides of head, and hind neck Light Mouse Gray (pl. li); mantle and scapulars yellowish Citrine (pl. iv), the feathers with dusky shaft-streaks and grey tips; rump and upper tail-coverts Sulphine Yellow (pl. iv). Below, throat and breast Sulphine Yellow, grading to Lemon Chrome (pl. iv) over the lower breast; abdomen white.

♀. Forehead and fore-crown Pyrite Yellow (pl. iv) with dusky streaking; crown, nape and hind neck brownish-grey, streaked with darker; mantle and scapulars Dull Citrine (pl. xvi), with dark brownish-grey shaft-streaks. Below, Pyrite Yellow over throat and breast, the former surface variably overlaid with grey; abdomen white, and flanks faintly streaked.

Wings (flattened) of 10 ♂♂ 77-82 (78.8), of 10 ♀♀ 74-78 (76.2) mm.

*Material*: 65. (Cape: Clanwilliam Div., Oudtshoorn, Laingsburg, Knysna, Willowmore, Patensie, Uitenhage, Alexandria, Cathcart Div., etc. Transvaal: Wakkerstroom [14th October, 1909 (? migrant)]).

*Range:* Western Cape from about Springbok, Little Namaqualand, south to the Peninsula, thence east to the eastern Cape. A single October bird from Wakkerstroom, in the south-eastern Transvaal, suggests some eastward movement on the part of some populations in winter.

(b) *Serinus canicollis thompsonae* Roberts

*Serinus canicollis thompsonae* Roberts, *Ann. Transv. Mus.*, vol. x, 3, 1924, p. 186: no locality=Woodbush, Tzaneen, northern Transvaal.

♂. As in *S. c. canicollis*, but forehead and crown usually darker and more golden, and rest of upperparts slightly darker. Below, with the throat and breast darker [Citrine (pl. iv)], this dark area more or less sharply defined as a plastron, not merging insensibly into the yellow of the lower breast as in the nominate race. Ventral character even better marked in breeding birds, which may become enriched to Orange-Citrine (pl. iv) over throat and breast.

♀. In fresh dress, rather darker and browner than *S. c. canicollis*, being about Light Brownish Olive (pl. xxx) from head-top to lower back, the shaft-streaking darker and coarser. In worn dress, grey of hind head and neck still retains brownish suffusion. Similar below. Averaging larger.

Wings of 10 ♂♂ 78-83 (80.8) of 10 ♀♀ 76-79 (76.8) mm.

*Material:* 68. (*Cape:* Barkly East, Dordrecht, Kokstad, Cedarville. *Natal:* Pietermaritzburg, Elandskop, Richmond, Qudeni Forest (Zululand), etc. *Transvaal:* Piet Retief, Carolina, Wakkerstroom, Belfast, Woodbush (Tzaneen), Lydenburg, Groot Spelonken, Dullstroom).

*Range:* North-eastern Cape along the seaward face of the Drakensberg Range, Natal, western Zululand, western Swaziland, Orange Free State, Lesotho (Basutoland), and the Transvaal highveld.

(c) *Serinus canicollis griseitergum* Clancey

*Serinus canicollis griseitergum* Clancey, *Durban Mus. Novit.*, vol. viii, 10, 1967, p. 112: Stapleford Forest Reserve, Umtali, eastern Rhodesia, at 5,200 ft. a.s.l.

♂. Forehead and crown greener, less golden than in *S. c. thompsonae*; grey of hind head and neck bluer and colder, less brownish tinged [Neutral Gray (pl. liii)]; ground to mantle and scapulars greener, and more heavily streaked with dusky and overlaid with grey. Face greener. Below, greener, less inclined towards Citrine, over throat and breast (Pyrite Yellow), which not zoned into a plastron as in *thompsonae*.

♀. Characters perhaps better marked than in ♂. Upper parts from crown to lower back cold and grey, not Light Brownish Olive, but intensity of streaking about the same; rump and upper tail-coverts greener (Pyrite Yellow, as against Sulphine Yellow). Below, with yellow surfaces greener, and overlay to throat clearer and bluer, less brownish, grey. A little smaller than *S. c. thompsonae*.

Wings of 10 ♂♂ 73.5-81.5 (77.0), of 10 ♀♀ 74-78 (76.2) mm.

*Material:* 61. (*Rhodesia:* Melsetter, Banti Forest Reserve, Chimanimani Mts. (Dragon's Tooth area), Stapleford Forest Reserve, Umtali, Inyanga (mainly Gleneagles Estate), lower Pungwe R.).



*Range:* Eastern highlands of Rhodesia from Melsetter, north to Inyanga, and in adjacent highland Moçambique.

While I have here treated *S. canicollis* and the forms of the *S. flavivertex* (Blanford) group as conspecific, in so doing following Benson and Chapin, I am not convinced that this treatment is correct. It may well be that a more satisfactory arrangement would be to treat *S. canicollis* and *S. flavivertex* and their component forms as two semispecies in a single superspecies. The form of the *flavivertex* group (*flavivertex*, *sassii* and *huillensis*) lack the grey over the hind head and neck, which surfaces are yellowish-olive, heavily streaked with sepia, as the mantle and scapulars. The wings are boldly barred with yellow and black, and ventrally males are more uniformly yellow than in *S. canicollis*. There is some marked variation in the colour of the tail in forms of the *flavivertex* group, the ventral surface of the tail in *flavivertex* being dusky, whereas in *sassii* and *huillensis* the same feathers are yellowish. In the three races of the *canicollis* complex the tail is yellow.

## An undescribed subspecies of button-quail from the Philippines

by KENNETH C. PARKES

*Received 14th December, 1967*

The Ocellated Button-quail *Turnix ocellata*, one of the largest and most colourful members of its family, is confined to the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Like so many other species, it proves to vary geographically within this large and diverse island, having northern and southern subspecies. The type locality of *Oriolus ocellatus* Scopoli, 1786, was restricted to Manila by Hachisuka (*The birds of the Philippine Islands*, vol. 1, part 1, 1931, p. 162), and thus the northern bird is unnamed. It may be called

*Turnix ocellata benguetensis*, subsp. nov.

*Type:* American Museum of Natural History No. 544611, adult female from "North Luzon" (= Mt. Data, Benguet Subprovince, Mountain Province, Luzon, Philippines: see Whitehead, *Ibis* 1899, p. 84-85), collected 2nd February, 1895, by John Whitehead.

*Characters:* Similar to *T. o. ocellata* of Manila and vicinity, but with shorter wing and bill (see list of measurements, below). These button-quail are so variable in colour that it is difficult to distinguish between individual and geographic variation in a limited series. The one consistent character noted in the series examined was the posteriorward extension of the rufous colour of the lower breast and flanks in adults of *benguetensis* of both sexes.

*Range:* Known only from the highlands of Benguet Subprovince, Luzon.

*Remarks:* In addition to two pairs of adults collected by Whitehead and now at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), I have examined a specimen from Baguio, Benguet, collected by D. C. Worcester on 5th July, 1902, formerly Philippine Museum No. 10430, and now at